

Oklahoma Chess Monthly

JANUARY 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

OCM



Happy New Chess Year 2021!

The Chess Prospects for 2021

Most chess fans are now saying good riddance to 2020, a year when traditional chess took it on the chin due to the pandemic.

But what about 2021? Will we return to normal?

Online chess blossomed in 2020, it is true. Chess clubs, coaching, and many “rapid” events moved online, including even national championships. International GM tournaments online proved that spectators could be captured and entertained for quick events, and that the play can be exciting. These strong trends will no doubt continue.

But purists who love the traditional sport of chess — at full-length ‘real chess’ time controls — are looking forward to the HOPE that it will make a comeback in 2021, after seeing 99% of such events cancelled last year after February. Oklahoma went from 5-6 traditional events (and 6-7 one-day practice events) per year, to just three in 2020: an OCF tournament in February, the OCA annual event which snuck in at a relaxed time in June, and the one sponsored by the Dallas Chess Club in OKC last month (see below). OSCO’s usual scholastic chess season of



“Oklahoma’s Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982”

<http://ocfchess.org>

Oklahoma Chess Foundation

Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich

Asst. Ed. Rebecca Rutledge

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to <mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net>

©2021 All rights reserved.

In This Issue:

- Prospects for 2021
- Red River Open
- Zenteno
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

6 one-day rapid tournaments plus a championship was also delayed this year.

What will happen in 2021?

Scholastic Chess

It looks like both Texas and Oklahoma will end up with truncated scholastic seasons this spring:

TCA Vice President Jim Hollingsworth says that although they have no plans yet, “The TCA scholastic championship will probably be online, as well as the Regional Scholastic Championships.”

OSCO’s President Chris Amburgy says the typical scholastic chess ‘season’ from September through February was indefinitely delayed but may yet still appear this spring instead. “We didn’t really cancel the OSCO season — we just never started it. The board hasn’t met yet, but I expect we’ll meet in January to discuss an abbreviated spring season to, at a minimum, select national representatives [for the four national championships that occur alongside the U.S. Open in August]. It could be that we hold the OSCO State Championship as our only OTB event later in the spring and make it a ‘winner take all’ approach to select national reps.”

Amburgy added that he believes Over-The-Board (OTB) events for scholastics, instead of online events, are now possible. “We’ve attended multiple OTB events in Dallas, Charlotte and DC. The precautions being taken are excellent and the safety level is high. I believe that we can safely schedule OTB events in Oklahoma again and the turnout at recent events indicates the demand is there.”

Traditional OTB Chess

Regardless of the growing acceptance of online play, it is the full-bodied depth of traditional chess, at full-length time controls, that remains the heart of the sport (and the main source, in my view, of educational benefits for scholastics as well). Can we return to normal in 2021?

The OCF’s goal has always been to keep traditional chess alive in Oklahoma and the surrounding region, and has for a long time been the sole source for such events with the exception of the OCA’s annual event. Since the passing of Frank Berry, I have taken up the responsibility for most OCF events. But my ability to do that is hindered until the Covid-19 crisis has clearly passed, and so at the earliest I could not re-start events in Oklahoma until this Summer, and even then I am intending at this time to reduce the number of events I do going forward.

I hope to at least direct our three traditional ‘memorial’ events this year in Oklahoma — The Jerry Spann Memorial, the FKB Memorial, and the Steve Wharry Classic. My current idea is to begin these in July.

But at least at this time it is unclear how much more than that I can do. Ideally an event this spring would be nice. And players could also use some OTB ‘practice’ events as well (which I define as one-day three-round Quads or Swiss events at full time controls, or one-day Rapid Chess tournaments.) But I cannot do these.

A Call for New Directors

And so, I’d like to put out a call now for new tournament directors and organizers to step forward and help take up some of the slack in Oklahoma (and the surrounding regions). OCF will help you gain TD accreditation and skills (it’s easy), and will help organize the events and get them officially rated through our affiliate. OCM will support you with promotion of the event.

If you would be interested in directing some events this year, contact me.

RED RIVER OPEN in OKC

IM Javakhadze Captures the First OTB Tournament in Oklahoma Since June

So many Oklahoma chess players were traveling down to Dallas for their OTB tournaments since they started up there again this past September, that perhaps it was inevitable someone would suggest they sponsor one here in Oklahoma City.

Thus the "Red River Open" was born, and the event was held December 19-20 in OKC, directed by Luis Salinas of the Dallas Chess Club. Time control was a full G/90+30. Let's hope this experiment worked out well for them — 53 players braved the pandemic to participate wearing masks. (See photos).

Perhaps the best innovation involves posting the pairings and standings online rather than on the wall — thus preventing the crowds around the pairing sheets that were typical at previous OTB events, and avoiding worrisome close player proximity.

IM Zura Javakhadze won the event 5-0. He is a former UTD student with the norms required for the GM title, but needs to get his FIDE rating over 2500 for the final hurdle, so he was here playing in this FIDE-rated event.



IM Javakhadze

Photo by
Shaun Graham

Second-place NM Julian Proleiko of Missouri was similarly seeking FIDE points for FM. Okies Matt Dalthorp and Shaun Graham had good tournaments to tie for 3rd. See crosstable.

Ryan Blackman (1788) of Arizona scored 4½ to win the Amateur (U1800) section. Okie Sean Harvey and N. Risko of MO tied for 2nd.



(Above)
Socially-distanced
tables at the
Embassy Suites
Downtown OKC
playing venue.
Photo: Jennifer
Koloen



(Left)
Dallas-area T.D.
Luis Salinas.

#	Name	Rating	St	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	IM Zura Javakhadze	2519	TX	W13 (b)	W19 (w)	W2 (b)	W5 (w)	W6 (b)	5.0
2	NM Julian Proleiko	2278	MO	W14 (w)	W8 (b)	L1 (w)	W6 (w)	W5 (b)	4.0
3	Matt Dalthorp	2029	OK	D20 (w)	W22 (b)	L5 (w)	W25 (b)	W12 (w)	3.5
4	Shaun Graham	1893	OK	H---	W16 (w)	D11 (b)	D8 (b)	W14 (w)	3.5
5	William M Wenz	2000	WI	W26 (b)	W9 (w)	W3 (b)	L1 (b)	L2 (w)	3.0
6	Barrett Winchell	1940	TX	W15 (w)	W25 (b)	W18 (w)	L2 (b)	L1 (w)	3.0
7	Vaseegaran Nandhakumar	1885	TX	L16 (b)	W26 (w)	W13 (b)	D11 (w)	D8 (b)	3.0
8	Mr. Oscar Wang	1813	OK	W27 (b)	L2 (w)	W10 (b)	D4 (w)	D7 (w)	3.0
9	Lawrence M Reifurth	1706	CO	W28 (w)	L5 (b)	H---	D15 (b)	W20 (w)	3.0
10	Navneet Puthukode Ramkumar	1590	CO	L18 (w)	W28 (b)	L8 (w)	W22 (b)	W19 (w)	3.0
11	Joe Dean Veal	1928	OK	D22 (w)	W20 (b)	D4 (w)	D7 (b)	U---	2.5
12	Adley E Bufford	1850	OK	W17 (w)	L18 (b)	H---	W16 (w)	L3 (b)	2.5
13	Gabriel Teubner	1664	OK	L1 (w)	W17 (b)	L7 (w)	W21 (b)	D15 (w)	2.5
14	Preston Koloen	1591	OK	L2 (b)	W21 (w)	D19 (b)	W24 (w)	L4 (b)	2.5
15	Raymond Junyang Jiang	1461	OK	L6 (b)	W23 (w)	D24 (b)	D9 (w)	D13 (b)	2.5
16	Jacob S Wang	1285	CA	W7 (w)	L4 (b)	D25 (w)	L12 (b)	W26 (b)	2.5
17	Iris Li	1121	CO	L12 (b)	L13 (w)	B---	D26 (w)	W25 (b)	2.5
18	NM Mark Allen Hulsey	2199	OK	W10 (b)	W12 (w)	L6 (b)	U---	U---	2.0
19	Maxwell H Barnes	1932	OK	W21 (b)	L1 (b)	D14 (w)	D20 (w)	L10 (b)	2.0
20	William Donham	1571	AR	D3 (b)	L11 (w)	W27 (w)	D19 (b)	L9 (b)	2.0
21	Joshua Li	1351	OK	L19 (w)	L14 (b)	W28 (w)	L13 (w)	B---	2.0
22	Elizabeth R Braddy	1286	OK	D11 (b)	L3 (w)	H---	L10 (w)	W27 (b)	2.0
23	Larry King	unr.	CA	L25 (w)	L15 (b)	L26 (b)	B---	W28 (w)	2.0
24	Jim Hollingsworth	1800	TX	H---	H---	D15 (w)	L14 (b)	U---	1.5
25	Justin Shandong He	1674	TX	W23 (b)	L6 (w)	D16 (b)	L3 (w)	L17 (w)	1.5
26	Benjamin Li	1501	OK	L5 (w)	L7 (b)	W23 (w)	D17 (b)	L16 (w)	1.5
27	Mitchell Jansen	877	WA	L8 (w)	B---	L20 (b)	L28 (b)	L22 (w)	1.0
28	Mr Kenneth Jones	unr.	AR	L9 (b)	L10 (w)	L21 (b)	W27 (w)	L23 (b)	1.0

The Zenteno Effect

by Tom Braunlich

had limited funds available to take him to large out-of-state tournaments. We would all do what we could to help, and offer them rides to tournaments in the region. I remember giving him a ride to the 1984 U.S.



Okie NM Wernher Zenteno

Mike Tubbs recently sent me the above photo saying, “I found retired chess master **Wernher Zenteno**, 56, alive and well in OKC. He terrorized Oklahoma chessplayers back in the 1980’s.”

I knew Zenteno well and it was a pleasure to see this recent photo. He started playing tournaments about the same time as me, in 1973 — but he was only 8 years old while I was 15. The photo above right, from FKB’s collection, shows Zenteno at age 8.

He was perhaps the most talented young player I’ve ever seen from Oklahoma — at one time he was the #1 rated player Under Age 12 in the USA. Every local chess player encouraged and mentored him as much as possible. We all thought he was a future master, and the only question was would he go further.

His parents were recent immigrants from Ecuador, as I recall, and lived then in OKC. They



Zenteno, Age 8

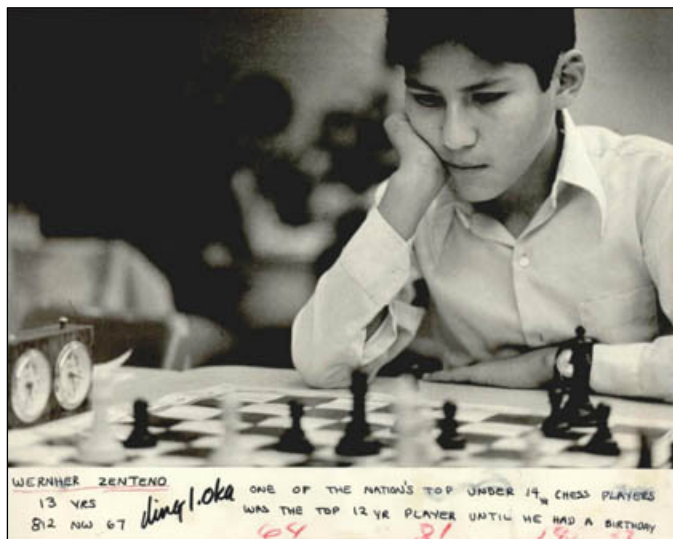
Open in Fort Worth TX, for example.

One of the top prospects in the country, he had an article about him in the OKC paper. But soon a sad process of “plateau and discouragement” started for him that I’ve seen too often for players in this region.

If Zenteno had lived in New York or Chicago when he was growing up, I am quite sure he would have become at least an International Master. It’s all a matter of opportunities, and although the chess scene here in Oklahoma at that time was pretty good, he was in a pool of players that topped out at 2200 throughout the 1970s, making it hard to advance beyond that level. He rarely got the chance to play and learn from top players, and of course he had no opportunities for coaching or attending major national tournaments.

Although he reached Expert by about age 14 or so, his enthusiasm for the sport began to wane, and his appearances at tournaments infrequent. By age 19 he was still only in the 2100s, although still a tough opponent. I remember he won a game against NM Tom Amburn while down a piece — a feat few can claim.

Sometime in the late 1980s, playing only occasionally, Zenteno earned his NM title. But his rating fell back to 2172 and, apparently discouraged, he quit the game for good. He has not played a rated game in well over 30 years.

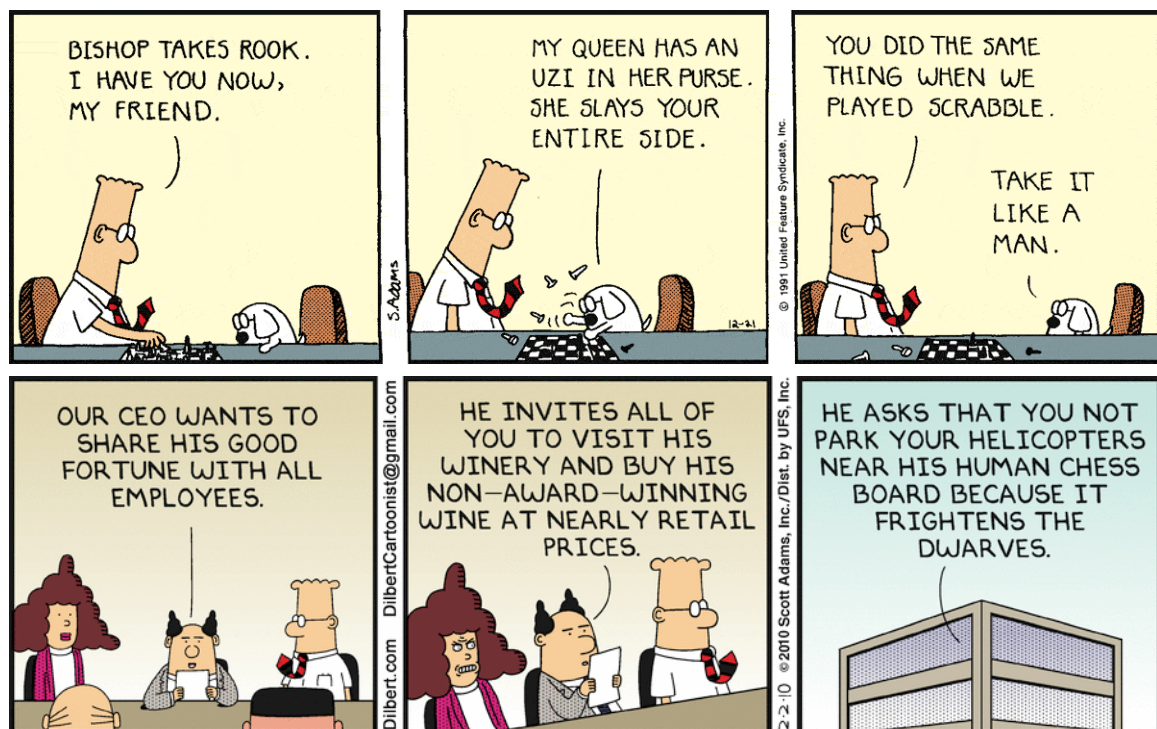


I have called it “**The Zenteno Effect**” – talented player in this region rockets up, meets a ceiling of opponents topping out only around 2200, has difficulty advancing beyond that, plateaus, gets discouraged, and quits.

I can think of other examples, and it makes me sad. Chess is a great lifetime avocation and sport, even as an amateur. It puts you in touch with like-minded fans around the world. Everywhere you go in life you can always find a chess club and make some friends, or a tournament where you can find the satisfaction of playing a well-played game against a worthy opponent. With this in mind I often talk to talented young players and try to encourage them to stick with chess whatever else they do in life.

Zenteno went to OSU and now is apparently self-employed in the restaurant supply business. Maybe some day he will turn up at a tournament again! (See “**Game of the Month**”)

DILBERT on Chess



Review: Three New Exotic Russian Sets from USCF

by Tom Braunlich and Istvan Szabad

In this region there are many players who are either chess set collectors, or at least who are interested in buying a beautiful set to own or take pride in. Now the USCF, in response to the success of "The Queen's Gambit" movie on Netflix, is coming out with three new exotic Russian set designs that would make a beautiful addition to anyone's collection. And each one has interesting stories behind it. Our collector guru Istvan Szabad leads us on a quick journey through the new offerings, each of which is a hand-carved high-quality \$495 set, produced by House of Staunton and available to USCF Sales now for pre-order. Comments below by Istvan.



The Circa 1940 Soviet Club Series Chess Pieces - 4.0" King



Circa 1950s Ceske Klubovska Series Chess Pieces - 4.0" King



The Tsarist Russian Series Luxury Chess Pieces - 4.4" King



NOTE Former #2 Jeffery Haskel has moved out of Oklahoma and thus removed from this list this month. Everyone moves up...

For JANUARY 2021

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2307	0	▲
3	Ryan Amburgy	2208	0	▲
4	Mark Hulsey	2202	3	▲
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	▲
7	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	▲
8	Tom Patton	2077	0	▲
9	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	▲
10	James Long	2054	0	▲
11	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▲
12	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	▲
13	Matt Dalthorp	2015	-14	
14	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	▲
15	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	▲
16	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	▲
17	Logan Zachare	1998	73	▲
18	David Luscomb	1995	0	
19	Joe Dean Veal	1940	12	▲
20	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	▲
21	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	▲
22	Shaun Graham	1902	9	▲
23	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	▲
24	Maxwell Xie	1862	2	▲
25	Maxwell Barnes	1859	-73	▼



Player of the Month

VICTOR BORGOV

The Soviet GM nemesis in "The Queen's Gambit" to me symbolizes the lousy chess year 2020. Here's to a better 2021...

COMMENTS BY ISTVAN SZABAD ON EACH DESIGN:

1940-Era SOVIET CLUB SET

The kind of solid set players like Botvinnik and Smyslov would have played on.

Istvan comments, "As usual in the Soviet Union the King piece has no cross, and the Queen has an opposite color ball on the top."

"In the USSR the people's wages were very low (compared to the Western countries like the USA). For this reason the state-owned toy factories tried to produce cheap chess sets that were affordable for everybody. For this reason in the Soviet Union there were many plastic chess sets that were not only un-weighted but very often hollow chessmen. To them, the quality of the pieces (or other products) was not very important. Just the chess game itself!"

"So the set designs were simple and practical. Nowadays many of those old plastic Soviet chess sets are sold on the internet from Russia or Ukraine, and collectors snap them up."

"I imagine that this is the reason why the HOS is selling these in white lacquered (matte) color — it recalls the old Soviet style."

1950-Era CZECH CLUB SET

This set from Czechoslovakia was one of the most unique and colorful designs ever, and yet also is a good functional set for tournaments.

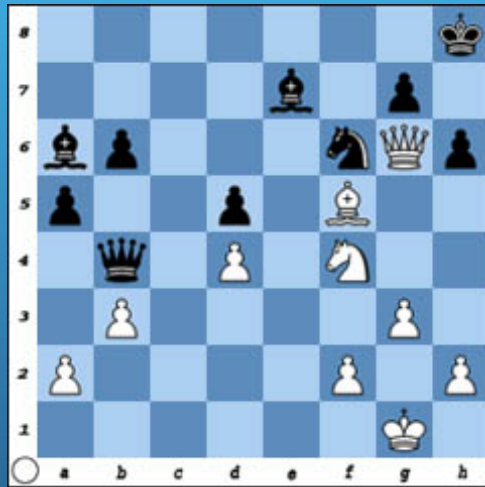
Istvan comments, "We actually know the designer of the Czech Chessmen — Bohuslav Schnirch, one of the best sculptors of his time. He created this "Ceska Klubovska" set around 1880. Schnirch was also the first chairman of the Czech Chess Union founded in 1888. There are many variations of this set produced over the last 140 years. It was used between 1951 and 1954 in FIDE tournaments."

"The unique features that distinguish it from typical Staunton sets:

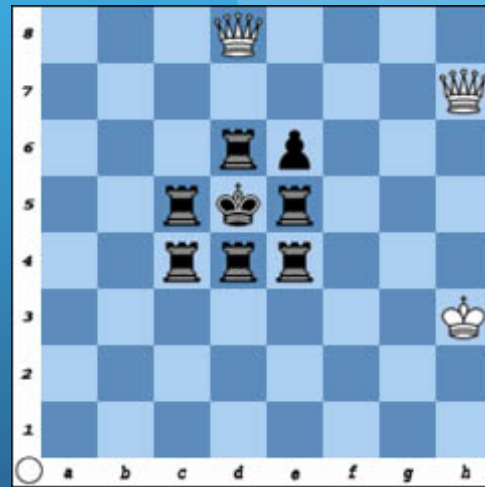
- 1. The Queen's top is always of opposite color.*
- 2. The King has an opposite color (small) hat.*
- 3. The Bishop is the most unique piece of the Czech sets, using a three-color design: The black Bishop's body is black, the head is white*

PUZZLES

Answers Next
Page



White to move and win. (Easy)



White to move and win. (Medium)

and the very top (usually a ball) is black. Of course the white Bishop is the reverse.

I have never seen another chess set with this three-color combination (black-white-black).
4. On the Rook's "body" we can see the 'bricks' of the castle."

"In the Czech Republic today we can still often see the 'modern' Ceska Klubovka set in Open tournaments (in addition to standard Staunton sets). The pieces are not weighted but the base of them is wide. I am a proud owner of a simple version of this Ceska Klubovka set. (see photo)."



Tsarist Russian Series Set

This fancy style from the last decades of the Tsar monarchy, circa 1900, is beautiful, and would make an excellent set for display.

Istvan comments, "In Russia chess has been very popular for many centuries. Many tsars were big chess fans. The last Russian tsar, Nicholas II, had three sport hobbies: riding bicycle, playing tennis, and chess. In 1914 he invited the best chess players of that time (Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhin, Tarrash etc.) for an elite event, calling them "Grandmasters" for the first time.

This "Tsarist Russian series" is very rare chess design."

"The chessmen of this set are highly decorative and 'strange' to the modern eye, but many classic Russian features can be seen. Even though the King and Queen have a unique shape, they still have the opposite-color top. But the most unique piece is the Rook, with its "flower head". I have never seen a similar Rook in any other chess set..."



Answers to the Puzzles

(1) White can make a spectacular smothered checkmate using a pattern well worth remembering: 1. Qh7+!, Nxh7 2. Ng6+ Kg8 3. Be6 mate

(2) White plays ring-around-the rosy, but it doesn't go on forever because the unit on e6 is a pawn, not a rook!

1. Qb7+ Rc6 (all black's moves are forced because one rook is always pinned.)

2. Qa5+ Rb5 3. Qb3+ Rc4 4. Qd2+ Rd3 5. Qf3+ Re4 6. Qg5+ e5 7. Qf7+, Re6 8. Qd8+ Rd6

9. Qb7+ Rc6 10. Qa5+ Rb5 11. Qb3+ Rc4 12. Qd2+ Rd3 13. Qf3+ e4 14. Qg5+ Re5 15. Qf7+,

Re6 16. Qd8+ Rd6 17. Qb7+ Rc6 18. Qa5+ Rb5 19. Qb3+ Rc4 20. Qd2+ Mate!

The unit on e4, being a pawn, can't move sideways, so its mate!

Chess Coaching

Available from
USCF Life Master
Tom Braunlich



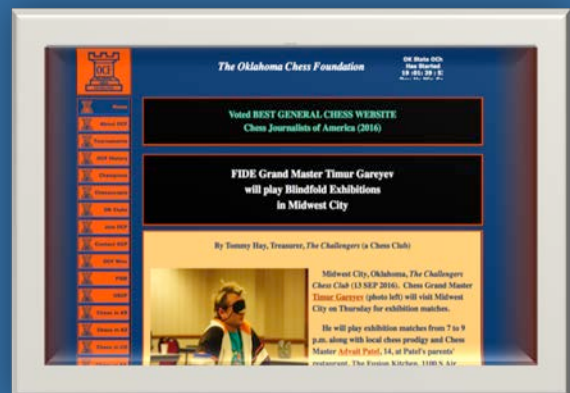
Achieve Your Chess Goals

•
Personal lessons available at a
Reasonable Price

•
Intermediate (1400+) or Advanced (1800+)
Students Preferred

Inquiries:
tom.braunlich@cox.net

Visit
www.ocfchess.org



Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS
WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

Get
OCF Member Content like the OCM
Plus
✓ Breaking News
✓ Archived Chess Information
✓ Useful Chess Links
... and more

NEWS BITES

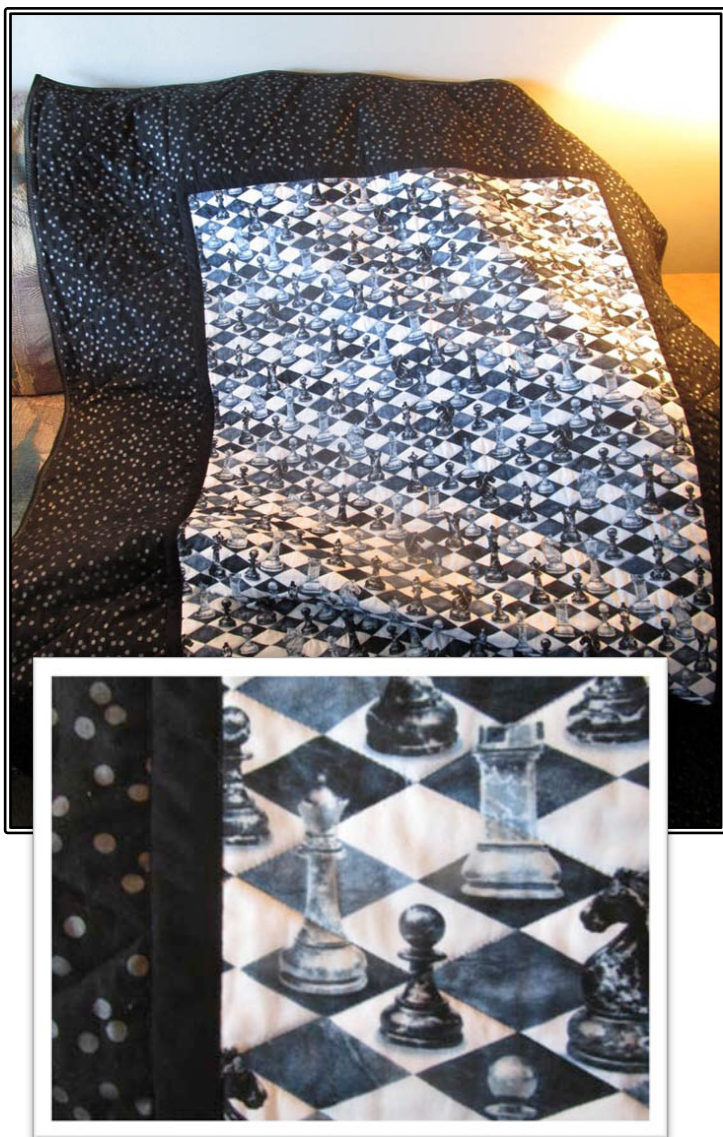
From Oklahoma and the Surrounding Region



John Taylor is reported to have passed away. I hope to have more details in the next issue on the long-time Tulsa player.

CHESS QUILT

I had a better Chessmas than you, because my sister made a chess quilt for me! See photo...



BLACK BEAR SCHOOL OF CHESS

GM Maurice Ashley has been featured in a mind-blowing high-energy video ad sponsored by the company 'Hennessey.' See it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T9xAqMBOSY>

Take note of the fast-paced editing that uses every trick in the book to make chess seem exciting.



AMBURGY IN TULSA WORLD



A nice interview in the Tulsa World on December 12 celebrated Ryan Amburgy, a Jenks native, for becoming the first Tulsan in over 35 years to earn the NM title. I particularly like his comment quoted below!

Jenks teen earns chess master title

JIMMIE TRAMEL
Tulsa World

One of the state's elite chess players, Jenks High School junior Ryan Amburgy recently completed the necessary steps to secure the title of National Master.

The United States Chess Federation conveys the title to any

out of nearly 150 kids at his first national tournament in 2014. He fielded four questions in the aftermath of his rise to National Master:

It's interesting that you have an interest in chess in an era when many people prefer video games and that sort of thing. Why chess?

I'm not that good at any board games, and there aren't really professional competitions for board games to my knowledge. I guess my second best one would be Stratego.

jimmie.tramel@tulsaworld.com



Amburgy

according to the Oklahoma Chess Association. Amburgy obtained title by defeating two National Masters and winning a Grandmaster (highest designation chess) to a draw at a tournament in Dallas expected that Amburgy's achievements could him the top-ranked player in Oklahoma. Amburgy started playing chess when he was 7 years old, according to his family. He played first organized tournament at age 9 and tied for

What's the best advice you can give to another chess player?

No matter how much you play chess, there is always more to learn. Even the world's best chess players continue to learn new things. Chess is a game that you can make a part of your life, no matter what age you are.



Zenteno, Wernher (2125)
 Latino, Carl (1964) [B14]
 1985 OK Team Ch., 1985
[Notes by Braunlich]

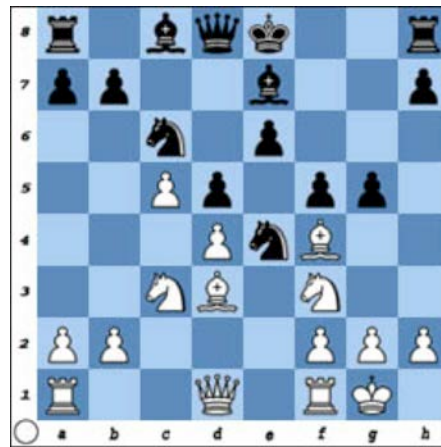
*Unfortunately, few Zenteno games survive.
 Here is one Mike Tubbs showed me that shows
 Zenteno's style and spirit well.*
 1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3
 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.c5 Ne4 8.Bd3



8...f5

[Mike Tubbs noted that this move is weakening and ECO prefers 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Be7 10.0-0 b6 11.cxb6 axb6 12.Bb5 Bd7= However, Carl Latino has his own ideas and is not unaware of the dangers of this move -- for both sides. It has been played before by masters. Carl is a long-time aficionado of the Dutch Defense and many times has cut down strong players with blistering kingside attacks based on its kingside pawn advances (both before and since this game!) Carl is unafraid of Zenteno's reputation and plans to challenge him directly on the kingside soon with ...g5, etc.]

9.0-0 Be7 10.Bf4 g5!?



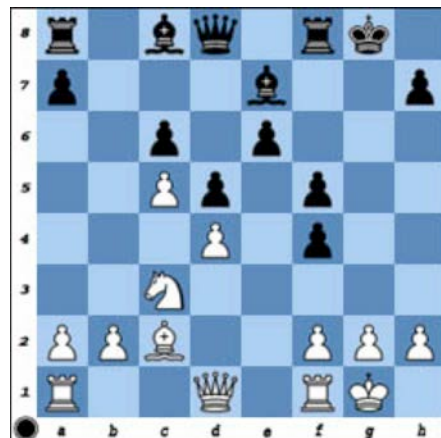
[Carl goes for it, but I have to suspect that Zenteno was hoping for this double-edged move, and in fact probably wanted to provoke it by playing his Bf4 the previous move. A less dangerous way of playing this for black is seen in the following game: 10...0-0 11.a3? Bf6 12.Bc2 g5! 13.Be5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Nxc5 16.Qh5 Bd7 and white does not have enough for the pawn sac. 0-1 (59) Vasiliev,O (2222)-Sulashvili,M (2431) INT 2006]

11.Ne5!?

[Zenteno had to make an interesting choice here between the text move and the immediate 11.Bxe4 gxf4 12.Bc2 Both are good moves that lead to very similar positions and pawn structure; with the main difference being that White's N remains on f3, whereas the game it is on e5 and eventually trades itself for black's N. With the help of modern computers we can see it's stronger to keep the N on f3 (See next note for why).]

11...0-0 [Not 11...gxf4? 12.Qh5+]

12.Bxe4 gxf4 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bc2



The subtle difference here between this position and the alternative mentioned above is that White would have a N on f3 and black a N on c6. This in turn would have allowed white to put uncomfortable pressure on the weak black f4 pawn, starting with Qd2. White's N helps in that case by standing ready to take out the black bishop if it is forced to protect the pawn with ...Bg5 at some point, which he probably will be. Losing that bishop would mean black's dark squares become terribly weak and give white a clear advantage (i.e., white can follow with moves like Nb5-d6). Still, Zenteno's approach is interesting, and shows something about his mature playing style at this age. He was attracted to the game position, with knights gone, because of the favorable pawn structure white has on the queenside, where white can engineer the breakthrough b4-b5 at some point and get a potentially strong passed c-pawn. He is counting on this to counter what undoubtedly will be attempts by black to attack down the g-file on the kingside. Most young players would prefer to have the black position with its chances for attack, but Zenteno always had a more nuanced chess understanding and often played solid positional games. Here, he is unafraid of black's kingside threats. Still, objectively, the position here is roughly in dynamic balance.

[14.Bf3 would have been an interesting alternative for white. It seems odd to park the B here, since it "bites on granite" attacking the pawn on d5. But it also blockades black's potentially dangerous f-pawn and protects g2. White's queenside play would be slower, but his position more solid with a slight edge. Zenteno wanted more.]

14...Bg5 15.b4

[Straight for his intended plan, b4-b5.]

15...Rb8 16.Rb1 Rf6

[This natural move is probably too ambitious. The rook takes up an aggressive post on h6, but Zenteno shows it doesn't actually do much there and eventually black wishes it was back on f8. Perhaps a waiting move like 16...Qc7

would be better, hoping to play ...e5 at some moment if white lets him.]

17.Re1 Rh6 18.Qe2?

[This inaccuracy loses most of Zenteno's advantage, and the game becomes close again. It essentially is a loss of tempo, and the lack of protection now for the pawn on d4 forces Zenteno to later sacrifice it for initiative. Better was the immediate 18.b5! cxb5 19.Nxb5 Bd7 20.Nd6 Rxb1 21.Qxb1 Bc6 (to prevent Qb7) and here white is much better.; Or 18.b5 Bd7 19.a4 would solidify a significant positional advantage for white, virtually winning. He can follow with Qd3 after which black is stuck with his queen defending against b5-b6 expansion by white, and thus black has nothing on the kingside either. White just improves the position of his pieces and doubles Rooks on the b-file and wins.]

18...Qc7!

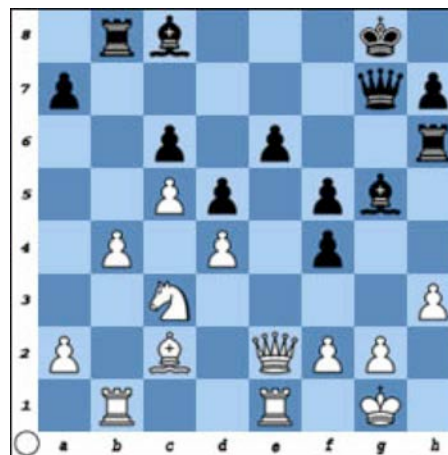
[Carl grabs his chance, tickling the h2 square.]

19.h3

[19.b5? f3! is favorable for black (hitting h2).]

19...Qg7!

[This little queen maneuver, hitting d4 now, has given black chances to save the game. Latino, a professor at OSU (and still is) and was quite strong at chess at this time, playing at expert level despite a chronic "A" rating. Here he forces Zenteno into some tough decisions.]



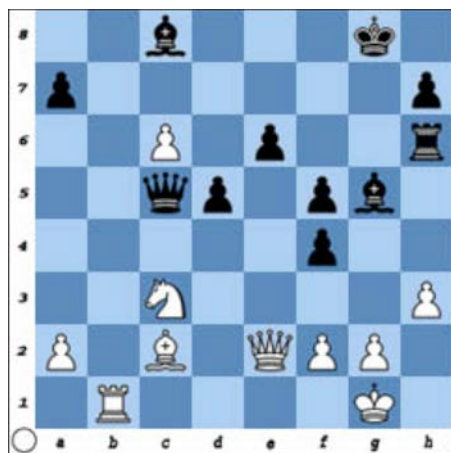
20.b5!?

[Zenteno rolls the dice and bets his game on his c-pawn. His idea is that black's R on h6 will now be out of play and sacrifices to open the b-file will exploit that. Instead 20.Qd3 would have been the other line, inviting complications after 20...f3! 21.Qxf3 Qxd4 How would you evaluate this position? I think most of us would choose black here. Yet my computer gives white a slight advantage! I don't get it. Apparently it likes the endgame for white after: 22.Qg3 Qf4 23.Qxf4 Bxf4 24.b5 I don't think we can blame Zenteno for rejecting this line, however, despite what the computer says. Instead he plays for a win...]

20...Qxd4 21.bxc6 Rxb1 22.Rxb1 Qxc5

[Zenteno's sacrifices have thrown confusion on the board, taking advantage of Black's weak back rank caused by the black rook's unproductive trip to h6. He hopes black will make a mistake he can exploit. Yet the situation is consistent with Zenteno's strategy on the queenside, and not random complications.]

A better chance for black in this position is 22...Qxc3 23.Rb8 f3 24.Rxc8+ Kf7 25.Qd3 Qe1+ 26.Qf1 Qc3 27.c7 Qxc5! when the computer reckons the complications here after 28.Qa6 Bh4 29.Rf8+ Ke7 30.Re8+ Kf7 peter out to perpetual check. The game continuation is similar, but Zenteno keeps threats going.]



23.Rb8

[This shows Zenteno's basic idea. White's rook invades while its counterpart is vacationing on h6. Will it be enough?]

23...Qxc3 24.Rxc8+ Kg7 25.Rc7+ Kf6 26.Rxa7!?

[The position still remains balanced, but Zenteno plays on by offering his valuable c-pawn. He literally dares black to take it! No doubt both players were nearing time trouble at this point, as the time controls in those days required you to make 50 moves in two hours, and there was no increment to help. So, was it a bluff?]

26...f3!

[Black doesn't take the bait, and instead plays a freeing move that will increase the B's scope.]

[26...Qxc6 27.Ra6 Qc8 28.Bd1! I think was Zenteno's sneaky idea, threatening Qb2+. In that case Carl would have needed to find some 'only moves' to keep the balance due to his exposed king, lousy rook on h6, and weak dark squares. The computer says its still about equal and the best line is 28...f3! 29.Qb2+ Kg6 But who wouldn't steer away from that?]

27.Qd3 [Unfortunately the only move.] 27...Qxc6?

[Black just can't resist going for the win by grabbing the juicy c-pawn! But unfortunately, that was what Zenteno was hoping for, and now white gets an enormous initiative. Instead, 27...Qe1+ forces a draw after 28.Qf1 Qc3 29.Qd3 Qe1+= etc.]



28.Ra6!

[A crushing move that would be easy to overlook. It pins black's e-pawn, making f5 suddenly unprotected, and his king position falls apart.]

28...Qc4 29.Qxf5+ Ke7 30.Qxg5+ Rf6
31.Qg7+ Rf7 32.Ra7+ Kd6 33.Qxf7 Qxc2
34.Qf4+ 1-0



By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

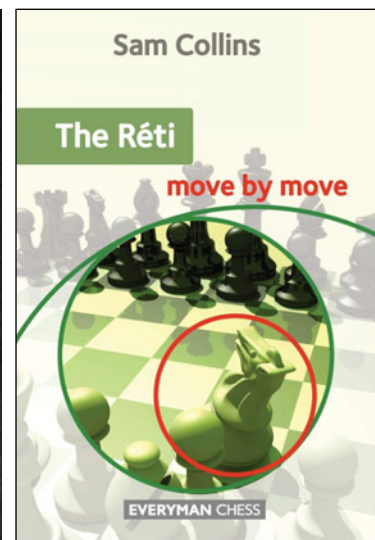
The Réti Move by Move

Opening books are getting more and more specialized as evidenced by Irish International Master Sam Collins' *The Réti Move by Move* (Everyman Chess 2020, <https://everymanchess.com>, 287 pages, paperback, \$27.95).

This book, which nicely supplements and updates full coverage works on the Réti by Demuth and Delchev, is devoted almost exclusively to the positions arising from 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4. It takes into account all of Black's replies - 2...dxc4, 2...e6 and 2...c6 as well as the most problematic move, the space gaining 2...d4.

Almost all of the variations Collins examines involve White fianchettoing his king bishop. The one exception lies in the lines arising after 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 (Collins' explains why 3.e3 and 3.g3 promise little) which can often lead to wild play not at all typical of the Réti.

Collins provides cutting edge theory but this is not to say that he claims a White advantage, particularly after 3...g5. Taking this into account and the un-thematic positions that arise after 3.b4, many champions of 1.Nf3 prefer



to meet 1...d5 with 2.d4 or 2.g3 and Collins has a special chapter at the end of the book devoted to the latter for those who don't want to steer the game into positions more typical of the Réti.

The Réti Move by Move will be of interest to others besides those who open with 1.Nf3. English players who meet attempts to transpose into the Slav (1.c4 c6) or Queen's Gambit Declined (1.c4 e6) with 2.Nf3 followed by a kingside fianchetto, will find this book useful. In the latter case the intention is not to transpose into the Catalan, but the Réti line 1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.O-O 0-0 6.b3 c5 and now both the traditional 7.Bb2 as well as the recently popular 7.cxd5 are covered.

A final group that might find this work, available in a variety of electronic formats besides as a paperback, of interest are those looking to improve their positional understanding by playing over 42 well annotated model games.

Recommended

"The scheme of a chess game is played on positional lines; the decision of it, as a rule, is effected by combinations."

— Richard Reti